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Amendments to the Specification: Please amend the substitute specification as indicated below:

[0003] In developing an automation system for a manufacturing or processing plant the continuity of the data or information flow is a problem. An automation system is generally described today with the aid of drawings. For this purpose Computer Aided Design (CAD) or Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) CAD or CAE tools, for example, are used. On the basis of plant layouts described with such systems, information relevant to control and operation, such as material flow information, can be inserted in the drawing already produced. However, this information contained in the layout, i.e. in the graphic description of the plant, is currently not used directly for engineering an automation system. Although as a rule automation code is produced on the basis of the plant layout, continuity of data flow is not ensured.

[0014] A further advantageous embodiment of the invention is characterized in that fourth means are provided for inputting control-relevant information to be used as description. A description need not necessarily be present in the form of a drawing for the automation system. Rather, it may be present, for example, in tabular form or in any other form. What is decisive for the usability of a description is that the control-relevant information is entered in the description. If this is the case any description can be used as the basis for the system according to the invention.